

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 SR-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DPW-01 SCA-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 EA-10 VOE-00 INSE-00

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FM US MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2676

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1651

UNCLAS GENEVA 3262

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR

SUBJECT: UNHCR AND REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA

REF: GENEVA 3261

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNHCR PRESS RELEASE DATED MAY 6
CONCERNING UNHCR ROLE IN ASSISTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY. QUOTE:

A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS HAVE DRAWN THE
ATTENTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
REFUGEES TO THE RECENT ARRIVAL IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF
LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE, AS WELL AS GROUPS OF
CAMBODIANS, WHO LEFT THEIR COUNTRIES DURING THE RECENT
EVENTS AND WHO NOW NEED ASSISTANCE.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT
THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CLEARLY REQUIRE
URGENT SOLUTIONS TO THEIR SITUATION. THE OFFICE WILL
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PLACE EMPHASIS, ACCORDING TO THE NEED, ON RESETTLEMENT

IN COUNTRIES WILLING TO ACCEPT THEM OR DURABLE ASYLUM
IN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE ARRIVED. THE HIGH
COMMISSIONER IS CONTACTING A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS OF
COUNTRIES OF POTENTIAL RESETTLEMENT. IN ADDITION,
UNHCR WILL ASSIST IN FACILITATING VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION
WHENEVER POSSIBLE, IF THIS IS THE PREFERRED CHOICE OF
SOME OF THE UPROOTED, AND THE REUNITING
OF SPLIT FAMILIES, THEREBY ALLEVIATING THE TRAGIC
CONSEQUENCES OF SEPARATION.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS
STAGE, THESE GROUPS HAVE ARRIVED IN SIGNIFICANT
NUMBERS IN GUAM, HONG KONG, MALAYSIA, PHILIPPINES,
SINGAPORE AND THAILAND, THOUGH SMALLER NUMBERS FIND
THEMSELVES IN A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING
SOME OUTSIDE THE AREA.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THESE
COUNTRIES ARE ASSESSING THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO
PROVIDE THE DATA REQUIRED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION. AS
PART OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT, TWO UNHCR
OFFICIALS ARRIVED IN GUAM TODAY.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, STATED,
"MY OFFICE HAS ALWAYS HELPED PROMOTE SPEEDY SOLUTIONS
TO PROBLEMS OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS, WHEREVER
THEY MIGHT BE. UNHCR WILL, AS IN THE PAST, SEEK
WAYS TO ENCOURAGE, AS NEEDED, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION,
INTEGRATION IN COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM, OR RESETTLE-
MENT OF INDIVIDUALS OF CONCERN TO US, IN A STRICTLY
HUMANITARIAN AND NON-POLITICAL MANNER." UNQUOTE.ABRAMS

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